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from Grace Ertel

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January 7, 2001

Fax 301/443-3100

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471

Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney.

I'm really alarmed and chagrined that growth hormones banned Europe for livestock are allowed in the U.S. At least one strain of salmonella is now resistant to five antibiotics and doctors have fewer tools to work with.

The European Union has already banned all growth-promoting uses of anithiotics that have a role in human medicine. It may be cheaper to raise food animals in such crowded conditions that more and more antibiotics are needed and growth hormones used to increase the weight. But are these animals healthily and what about those who eat them? I used to think the FDA guarded our health but I'm beginning to think the Europeans have better protection than we do.

I urge you to please ban the use of human antibiotics to make livestock grow faster.

Sincerely,

Grace Ertel

997-0485

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